GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:179
ANSWERED ON:13.12.2004
BONDED LABOURERS
Sen Smt. Minati

Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Bonded Labour System still exists in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any preventive measures have been taken to free bonded labourers from such slavery;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI K. CHANDRASEKHAR RAO)

(a) to (e): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (a) TO (e) OF THE LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 179 (DAY`S SERIAL NO. 19) FOR 13.12.2004 REGARDING BONDED LABOURERS.

(a) and (b) The Bonded Labour System has been abolished by law throughout the country w.e.f. 24.10.1975 under the Bonded Labour System (Abolition) Act, 1976. Though the incidence of bonded labour has been coming down steadily, however, instances of Bonded Labour have been reported from several States. The number of bonded labourers rehabilitated during 2001-02 to 2003-04 is as under;

Sl.No.	Name of State/UTs	No. of bonded labourers rehabilitated	Amount spent on rehabilitation (Rs. In lakhs)
1	Bihar	467	46.70
2	Haryana	28	0.51
3	Punjab	69	6.90
4	Maharashtra	19	1.30
5	Karnataka	1890	189.00
6	Tamilnadu	3844	384.40
7	Chattisgarh	124	12.40
8	Uttaranchal	5	0.50
9	Uttar Pradesh	398	39.80
10	Orissa	39	3.31
11	Rajasthan	10	1.00
12	Andhra Pradesh	1699	169.90
	TOTAL	8592	855.72

(c) to (e) Sensitisation workshops for authorities dealing with the bonded labour are being held regularly by the National Human Rights Commission in close collaboration with the Central and State Governments. Under the Act, the District and Sub-Divisional Magistrates have been entrusted with certain duties and responsibilities for taking punitive action against the offenders for violation of the provisions of the Act. As many as 2,65,905 bonded labourers have so far been freed from bondage and rehabilitated through out the country since 1978 when the Centrally Sponsored Scheme for rehabilitation of bonded labour was launched. Prosecution has been launched in 5576 cases for violation of the provisions of the Act throughout the country.